

REMARKS

By entry of this amendment, claims 7-12 are currently pending in this application. Claims 7 and 11 are independent. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 11 and 12 have been allowed. Claims 7-12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 has been amended to address the offending language. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 7-10 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over alleged Admitted Prior Art and Yilmaz et al., (USP 5,304,831) (hereinafter "Yilmaz"). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the alleged Admitted Prior Art and Yilmaz, as applied to claim 7 above, and further view of Murakami (JP 05-090595). Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the alleged Admitted Prior Art and Yilmaz, as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Kunori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,128).

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections.

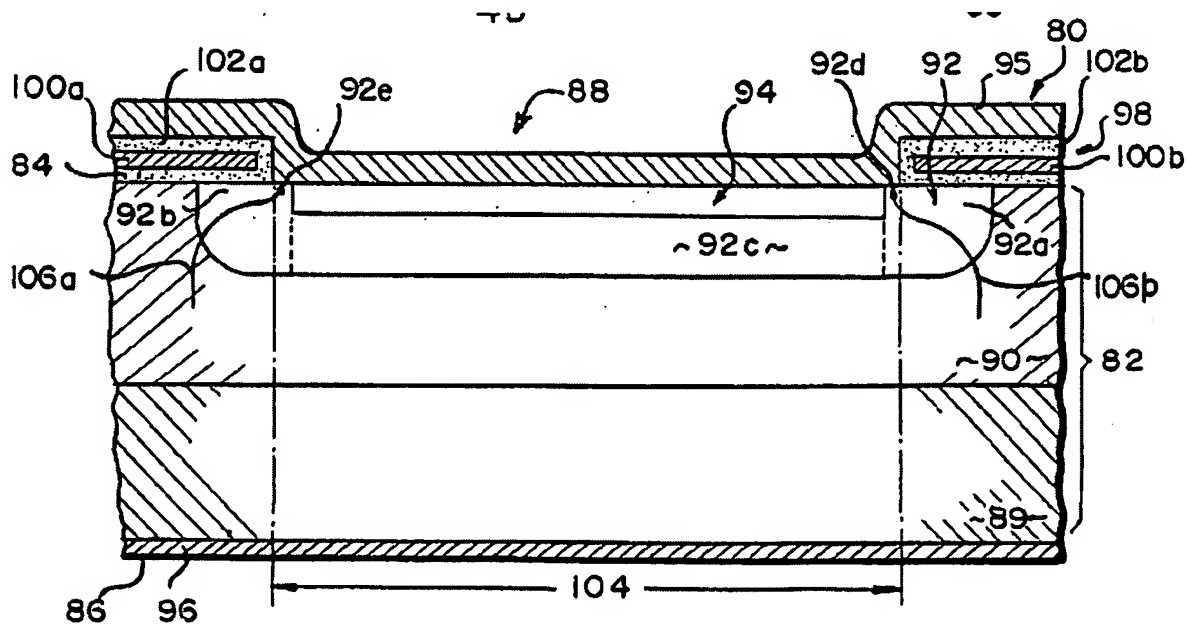
Claim 7 recites, in part:

a field region provided in the semiconductor substrate facing its principal plane, ***the field region being configured to divide the emitter region and the body region into cells***, and ***a contact electrode*** provided outside of the semiconductor substrate ***connecting with the emitter region and the field region***, wherein ***the emitter region, the body region, and the drift region constitute an insulated gate transistor divided by the field region***,

In making the rejection of claim 7, the Office admits the alleged Admitted Prior Art does not disclose a field region contacting the contact electrode at a corner portion of the contacting portion. The Office relies on Yilmaz to overcome this deficiency.

The Office asserts, at page 3 of the Office Action, that the emitter regions 94 and the contacting portion 92d of Yilmaz discloses, when combined with the alleged Admitted Prior Art, the field region that contacts the contact electrode at a corner portion of the contacting portion. The Office seems to be asserting that contact region 92d between base region 92 and contact electrode 95 at an edge portion of the contact electrode 95 corresponds to the claimed field region contacts with the contact electrode at a corner portion." As highlighted above, the claimed field region is configured to divide the emitter region and the body region into cells.

However, as shown in Yilmaz's FIG. 4A below and explained in column 7, lines 7-32, the contacting portion 92d is part of the base region 92c. The base region 92 of Yilmaz is part of the transistor, and does not correspond to a field region as recited in claim 7.



The Office does not provide any rationale or articulate any explanation of how the base region of Yilmaz can be substituted for the field region of the alleged Admitted Prior Art to arrive at Applicant's claimed invention.

Neither the alleged Admitted Prior Art nor Yilmaz, either individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in independent claim 7.

Claim 7 defines over the applied prior art. Claims 8-10 depend from allowable claim 7. Accordingly, claims 8-10 are also allowable, and the rejections of claims 7-10 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4254 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Martin E. Miller/
Martin E. Miller
Registration No. 56,022

KENYON & KENYON LLP
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 220-4200
Facsimile: (202) 220-4201